

BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

PERIODIC REPORTING
(PROPOSAL THREE)

Docket No. RM2020-10

STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE REGARDING
PROPOSAL THREE COMMENTS OF UNITED PARCEL SERVICE, INC.
(September 4, 2020)

On September 1, 2020, UPS filed comments regarding Proposal Three, in accordance with the procedures and schedules set in Order Nos. 5548 (June 15, 2020) and 5621 (August 6 2020). The Postal Service hereby submits the following statement in response.

UPS unequivocally supports the adoption of Proposal Three. UPS Comments at 1-2, 14-15. Yet UPS also maintains that Proposal Three can be refined to achieve what it claims would be ways to even further reduce the risk of inaccuracies. *Id.* at 2, 10. UPS identifies two possible modifications, each of which UPS characterizes as “straightforward.” *Id.* at 12, 14. Interestingly, however, UPS also describes its proposed modifications as “incremental,” and further emphasizes that they should not delay the “approval” or “timely implementation” of Proposal Three. *Id.* at 2, 14.

The Postal Service likewise seeks to avoid delays in the approval or implementation of Proposal Three. That is particularly the case because, at the moment, there perhaps may be a sufficient window of time for the Commission to complete its review and, assuming that review to be favorable, for the Proposal Three methodology to be approved and incorporated into the ACR for FY 2020.

The scheduling Orders, however, made no provision for reply comments. Without seeking leave to file reply comments, the Postal Service has no vehicle by which to express its views on the merits of the modifications to Proposal Three that UPS has suggested. Moreover, while the refinements that UPS has advanced may seem relatively straightforward in the abstract, suffice to say that attempts to actually implement those suggestions would give rise to a host of issues, upon none of which the Postal Service has yet had the opportunity to focus much attention. Therefore, any attempt to engage on the merits of those proposed modifications now would almost certainly preclude implementation of Proposal Three as part of the FY 2020 ACR.

Since UPS has already acknowledged that its further suggestions are incremental, the Postal Service submits that the most appropriate course of action for the Commission to pursue now is to focus its attention on Proposal Three as submitted. It is fair to say that UPS has indicated an intent not to impede timely implementation of a proposal that it views as a major step forward. While the Postal Service could perhaps have remained silent and relied upon the Commission to interpret those statements by UPS in the same vein as the Postal Service perceives them, the Postal Service does not want to run the risk that its silence in response to the suggested modifications to Proposal Three might be viewed as any type of implicit acquiescence to their immediate adoption as part of this proceeding. Consequently, the Postal Service submits this

statement to clarify that such a view would not reflect its actual position under these circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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